

## **Eastern Region Essay Winner**

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I have always been the person who helped no matter what. Sometimes I got taken advantage of, but I've learned so much throughout the years. I've never thought about why I help others, it just comes naturally, but now that I think about it, I help others for two reasons: to help people not feel as I have, and to prove that I was here. Many times throughout my life, I felt unnoticed and unimportant and as if nobody cared about my well-being. I would do anything to make sure nobody feels like that. I know nobody deserves that and no matter who you are you deserve to feel like you belong and that someone cares about you.

I want it said that I lived each day to the fullest until I died. I want to leave my mark on the world, and I don't want to be forgotten. I loved many people and they have impacted me drastically. The simple things mean a lot. I can make a difference in somebody's life and for someone to think about me and have a positive thought is all I ever want. I want to mean something in somebody's life, make a difference, so when I'm gone I want to know I did my best and gave it all the positivity I had in me. I want to bring someone at least a sliver of happiness and make the world a little better, or at least the way someone views the world a little better. I don't want to have any regrets, and I want to do everything to be able to have someone smile when they remember me; that's my proof that I was here.

I do think Thomas Cannon would have agreed with my two reasons. He has definitely left a mark on our society but, more importantly, on the individuals who influence that society. He seemed like the kind of person who held self-respect and equality as a very high aspect of life. The amount of positivity surrounding his name is spontaneous; you can hear it when people say his name and all the positive words surrounding it. Cannon gave away what he had and sometimes didn't have. I try to give away happiness while simultaneously trying to build my happiness off the happiness I give. People like Thomas Cannon are the glue to our society; they bring us together as one.